

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04372 161133Z

11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 /035 W

----- 053468

P 161044Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3909

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 04372

DEPARTMENT FOR EB AND SCA

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BE, CASC

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SEIZURE OF US TRAVEL CLUB'S PLANE AND
POTENTIAL STRANDING OF RETURN PASSENGERS IN BELGIUM

1. BELGIAN COURT IN OSTEND HAS SEIZED DC-8 AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY US AIR TRAVEL CLUB, AIR CALEDONIA OF DENVER, COLORADO, IN RESPONSE TO ACTION RELATING TO BILLS OUTSTANDING AGAINST AIR CALEDONIA. THE PLANE DEPARTED SALT LAKE CITY MAY 10, ARRIVING OSTEND MAY 11 WITH APPROXIMATELY 130 PASSENGERS. ACCORDING TO PROUTING ON FILE WITH BELGIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES, PLANE WAS TO LEAVE BELGIUM MAY 15, RETURNING LATER FOR RETURN FLIGHT TO SALT LAKE CITY WITH SAME PASSENGERS MAY 26. SINCE SEIZURE OF PLANE, BELGIANS HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT AIR CALEDONIA WITHOUT SUCCESS. PILOT AND CREW OF AIRCRAFT HAVE DEPARTED COUNTRY, AND NO ONE HAS IMPOUNDED PLANE. THEY THEREFORE NOTIFIED EMBASSY OF EXISTENCE OF THIS PROBLEM ON MAY 15.

2. AS THINGS NOW STAND, PASSENGERS WHO ENTERED BELGIUM VIA AIR CALEDONIA FLIGHT WILL HAVE NO MEANS OF RETURN TO U.S. MAY 26. THESE 130 PEOPLE ARE PRESUMABLY DISPERSED THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND UNAWARE OF THEIR PROBLEM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COORDINATING WITH FAA ON URGENT BASIS TO LOCATE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 04372 161133Z

AIR CALEDONIA MANAGEMENT AND STRONGLY URGE THEM TO MAKE ALTER-

NATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN OF THEIR PASSENGERS IN LIKELY
EVENT IMPOUNDED AIRCRAFT REMAINS UNAVAILABLE. IN ADDITION,
WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AIR CALEDONIA'S INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS
SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES SURROUNDING SEIZURE OF ITS AIRCRAFT.
IF POSSIBLE, PASSENGERS SHOULD BE LOCATED AND NOTIFIED
OF CHANGES IN RETURN ARRANGEMENTS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. BELGIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES AND EMBASSY ARE PRE-
PARED TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO AVOID SITUATION OF 130
STRANDED AMCITS WHICH COULD OCCUR MAY 26. ADVISE ASAP RESULTS
OF EFFORTS WITH AIR CALEDONIA.

4. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED BRUSSELS FAA OF FOREGOING.FIRESTONE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRCRAFT DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE04372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-0708
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750542/aaaablhd.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: SEIZURE OF US TRAVEL CLUB'S PLANE AND POTENTIAL STRANDING OF RETURN PASSENGERS IN BELGIUM
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, BE, US, AIR CALEDONIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006